Claim Amendments

1-11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) An inverted T-beam as recited in claim ~~12~~ 18 wherein said aperture is substantially rectangular in shape, and projections are located at the top and bottom of said aperture.

14. (Currently Amended) An inverted T-beam as recited in claim ~~13~~ 18 wherein the free end of said tooth engages one of said projections to lock a first one of said inverted T-beams in said aperture of a second T-beam of identical configuration.

15. (Currently Amended) An inverted T-beam as recited in claim 14 wherein said free end of said tooth is released from locking engagement by squeezing said ~~rectilinear~~ legs together.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) An inverted T-beam as recited in claim ~~12~~ 18 wherein a step is formed at the junction between the ~~first~~ inner portion having a greater height and the second ~~outer~~ portion having a lesser height.

18. (New) An inverted T-beam including a base and a central web extending upwardly therefrom, said web having at least one end,

    a)   an appendix formed at said end,

    b)   said appendix comprising a unitary member with a continuous inner and outer portion,

c)   said inner portion joined to said web at a height greater than the height of said outer portion relative to said base,

d)   said outer portion being bent into a first and a second leg connected by a bent portion,

e)   the first leg joined to said inner portion in a coplanar manner with the second leg depending therebelow at an acute angle relative to said first leg,

f)   said second leg extending beyond the intersection of said inner portion and said first leg,

g)   a tooth formed within said second leg, said tooth including a free end that is bent downwardly out of the plane of said second leg at an acute angle,

h)   said tooth located at a height greater than the lower end of said second leg relative to said base,

i)   at least one aperture in said web having a height substantially corresponding to the height of said first leg relative to said base.